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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/637,161	08/08/2003	Herb M. Poplawski	36400.35US2	2925
25541	7590	10/28/2004	EXAMINER	
NEAL, GERBER, & EISENBERG SUITE 2200 2 NORTH LASALLE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60602			LEWIS, TISHA D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3681	

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/637,161

Applicant(s)

POPLAWSKI ET AL.

Examiner

TISHA D. LEWIS

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a response to the amendment received on August 8, 2004 which has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

-The priority under 35 U.S.C 120 is recognized due to applicant amending the specification with the patent number of the parent application.

-The double patenting rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-22 has been withdrawn due to applicant filing a terminal disclaimer which has been approved.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed August 2, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument is directed to the transmission housing of Boyer not being mounted to a vertical face of the side frame of the vehicle frame as claimed. However, the transmission housing of Boyer is mounted to a vertical face of the frame by the axle gearing, since applicant doesn't disclose in the claim that this connection is "***direct***" between the housing and frame, Boyer seems to still meet this limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The limitation "vertical face" is considered new matter since this limitation isn't supported by the specification to reasonably convey to one of ordinary skill in the art as to which side is the vertical face of the side frame member for mounting the transmission housing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent application publication to Boyer et al ('384). As to claim 1, Boyer et al discloses a vehicle including a vehicle frame (22) having at least one vertically oriented side frame member (24), a transmission housing (110) mounted to the frame member (via 48), a hydrostatic transmission (104) mounted in the transmission housing comprising a motor and pump connected through a circuit [0054], and an axle shaft (44, 46) driven by the motor (via 48) and extending perpendicular to the frame member.

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As to claim 2, Boyer et al discloses two vertical side frame members (24, 26) having the transmission housing secured to one of the frame members.

As to claim 3, Boyer et al discloses the housing being secured to the frame member by at least one bracket (38, 40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 7-11, 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyer et al in view of Hauser et al ('531). As to claim 5, Boyer et al discloses a transmission housing mounted to a frame member, but does not disclose a control arm engaged to the transmission.

Hauser et al discloses a vehicle having a transmission housing (21, 22) split vertically comprising a hydraulic motor and pump connected through a circuit, an axle shaft (90) driven by the motor and extending perpendicular to the vertical housing and a control arm (108) engaged to the housing (22) and mounted partially inside the housing (shaft of control arm) and partially outside the housing (lever of control arm) which would be between the housing and frame.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Boyer et al with a control arm engaged to the

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transmission in view of Hauser et al to limit rotational movement of the transmission output.

As to claim 7, Boyer et al discloses a transmission having a hydraulic motor and pump, but does not disclose the structure of how the motor and pump are connected.

Hauser et al discloses a transmission having a center section (10) with porting, a pump running surface and a motor running surface.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Boyer with a center section having a pump and motor running surface in view of Hauser et al to hydraulically connect the pump and motor for operation to the axles.

As to claim 8, Boyer et al discloses a motor shaft (transmission output shaft, [0053, line 6]) driven by the motor and parallel to the axle shaft.

As to claim 9, Boyer et al discloses a vehicle frame (22) having at least one vertical side frame member (24), a transmission housing (110) mounted between and secured to the side frame member, a hydrostatic transmission (104) mounted in the housing comprising a pump and a control mechanism (118) controlling output of the pump, but does not disclose a control arm engaged to the control mechanism.

Hauser et al discloses a vehicle having a transmission housing (21, 22) split vertically comprising a hydraulic motor and pump connected through a circuit, an axle shaft (90) driven by the motor and extending perpendicular to the vertical housing and a control arm (108) engaged to the housing (22) and mounted partially inside the housing

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(shaft of control arm) and partially outside the housing (lever of control arm) which would be between the housing and frame.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Boyer et al with a control arm engaged to the transmission in view of Hauser et al to limit rotational movement of the transmission output.

As to claim 10, Boyer et al discloses the control mechanism being in the form of a rotatable swash plate [0054].

As to claim 11, Boyer et al discloses a motor mounted in the housing in fluid communication with the pump and an axle shaft (44, 46) mounted in and extending from the housing (via 48) and driven by the motor.

As to claim 14, Boyer et al discloses a transmission having a hydraulic motor and pump, but does not disclose the structure of how the motor and pump are connected.

Hauser et al discloses a transmission having a center section (10) with porting, a pump running surface and a motor running surface.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Boyer with a center section having a pump and motor running surface in view of Hauser et al to hydraulically connect the pump and motor for operation to the axles.

As to claim 15, Boyer et al discloses a transmission having a hydraulic motor and pump, but does not disclose the structure of how the motor and pump are connected.

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Hauser et al discloses a transmission having a center section (10) with porting, a pump running surface perpendicular to the vertical transmission housing (21, 22) and a motor running surface horizontal to the housing.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Boyer with a center section having a pump oriented vertically to the frame and a motor oriented horizontal to the frame in view of Hauser et al to reduce the height of the transmission in the vertical direction.

As to claim 16, Boyer et al discloses a motor shaft (output shaft of transmission [0053], line 6) driven by the motor, a reduction gear (94, 96) driven by the motor shaft, and a bull gear (90) driven by the reduction gear and linked to the axle shaft.

As to claim 17, Boyer et al discloses the motor shaft being parallel to the axle shaft.

Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyer et al in view of Yoshina et al ('316). Boyer et al discloses a transmission housing secured to a frame member by brackets, but the housing does not disclose a boss for securing to the brackets.

Yoshina et al discloses a snow thrower auger (46) driven by an engine (E), a hydraulic motor (M) driven by the engine and a transmission housing (1, 2) secured to a frame (27) by brackets (27a) which are secured to bosses (2a) formed with the transmission housing.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Boyer et al with bosses formed with the transmission

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housing in view of Yoshina et al to eliminate additional (separate) components used to secure the housing to the frame member.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyer et al in view of Hauser et al as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Yoshina et al. Boyer et al in view of Hauser discloses a transmission housing secured to a frame member by brackets, but the housing does not disclose a boss for securing to the brackets.

Yoshina et al discloses a snow thrower auger (46) driven by an engine (E), a hydraulic motor (M) driven by the engine and a transmission housing (1, 2) secured to a frame (27) by brackets (27a) which are secured to bosses (2a) formed with the transmission housing.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Boyer et al in view of Hauser et al with bosses formed with the transmission housing in view of Yoshina et al to eliminate additional (separate) components used to secure the housing to the frame member.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-22 are allowed.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3600's facsimile number is **(703) 872-9326 before final and 703-872-9327 after final**. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission,

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see MPEP 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check **should not be** submitting by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to
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Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TISHA D. LEWIS whose telephone number is 703-305-0921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 8 AM TO 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CHARLES A. MARMOR can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tdl
October 26, 2004


TISHA LEWIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art 3681 10/26/04